

vided with biting mouth-parts. The adult darkens somewhat with age, and in the spring some of the males appear to be almost black. The males are smaller than the females, the largest females not measuring one-fourth of an inch in length. The weevils do little damage at this time of the year (middle and the late summer).

Winter Quarters.

Early in the fall the weevils begin leaving the fields and spreading to new territory, flying or crawling in apparently all directions. Before frost comes, they seek shelter, either in the crowns of the alfalfa plants, close to the surface of the ground; under leaves; in weeds and rubbish along ditch banks; in hay or straw stacks; or any well-sheltered spot. The weevil lives over winter thus sheltered, coming out early in the spring to lay the eggs for a new generation. Where the infestation is at all heavy, which is especially true after the second year of the presence of the weevil in the field, the first crop of alfalfa is injured from one-half to three-fourths, and this year there are many fields where there are not 500 pounds of good hay to the acre.

Loss.

The fact that the worms are not full grown when the first crop is cut, causes the loss to the second cutting. The young worms are jolted off the plants, work their way back to the stubble and feed on every sign of bud and leaf that appears, thus keeping the second crop from starting until they are fully grown, and have stopped feeding.

Remedies.

At the present time we know of no means of controlling the full grown weevil, during the hibernating stage in winter. Hence, our efforts must be devoted to controlling the younger stages. Where a field is heavily infested, it is advisable to cut the first crop very early, in fact, when it is not over half grown.

Why Cut.

Under no circumstances should an injured field be allowed to stand without cutting, since this will simply mean the coming to maturity of immense numbers of the weevil.

Discing.

Immediately after the removal of the hay, and this should not be allowed to lay on the ground any longer than necessary for curing, the field should be heavily disced and cross-disced, and then gone over immediately with a leveller. The young worms are very frail, have no feet, and make their way but slowly back to the plants. The discing will knock off practically all of those that have reached the plants, crush large numbers of them, bury many in the soil, and suffocate others.

Leveller.

The object in using the leveller is to create sufficient dust mulch to cause the death of the worms. All insects breathe through openings on the side of their bodies and anything which will cover these openings will suffocate them in a short time. The rough treatment accorded the larvae by the discing and leveling, will be sufficient to kill a very large percentage.

Clean Up.

The field should then be irrigated, and everything possible done to stimulate rapid growth for the second crop. It is well, even if but a few larvae are seen in the field to carry out this same treatment after the removal of the second cutting. There are a few other minor means which should be used in connection with work. Clean cultivation around the edges of the field, on the ditch banks, and burning of all trash, weeds, and rubbish after the weevils have gone into hibernation, will aid considerably in controlling them. The sweet-clover which is often allowed to grow luxuriantly along the fence should be cut out, and such places thoroughly cleaned of weeds and other plants.

Old Alfalfa.

The older seriously infested fields, to good advantage, may be plowed in late May or early June, since the turning under of the crop at this time will kill practically all the larvae and eggs present in the field, besides being good farm practice.

Danger.

Spraying, and cultivation experiments with discs, renovators, and levellers, are now being carried on for

the purpose of ascertaining the best means of control throughout the year. No hay should be shipped from any of the infested territory. The danger to the alfalfa industry in this state cannot be over-estimated.

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